

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday April 28, 2025 – 12:00 P.M.

Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

**Members
Present:**

Micki Ferris
Lori Johnson
Casey Schmidt
Chris Behrens
Shelby Chekal – via Zoom

Shannon Zoffka
Jolynn Harger
Linda Moeller -via Zoom
Libby Reekers

Sherri Vesely – via Zoom
Sherry Parks – via Zoom
Sally Custer
Mark Doland

Members Absent: Curt Hilmer

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:10 p.m.

Lori Johnson asked if we could revise the Agenda to have Item 12 under New Business as the first item under New Business, as Libby Reekers needed to leave the Board meeting to go out of town to another meeting.

Sally Custer moved to accept the Revised Agenda as presented. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the March 24, 2025 meeting as presented. Sally Custer seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris stated that it had been a busy month. He had 7 Time of Transfers, and started on his pool/tanning/tattoo inspections. He also started the Interim Zoning and Weed Commissioner positions.

Director's Report - 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework – Lori Johnson gave the report that Shannon made before she left.

1. *Assess and Monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets*
 - Food Pantry: Mobile food pantry continues monthly in Tama.
2. *Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population*
 - Communicable Disease Investigations Started in March : 3 E Coli
 - Active & Latent TB Cases: current latent cases 2
 - Animal Bites: 1 in March
 - Immunizations Given: 0
3. *Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it*
 - Social Media Strategy: Measles, TB, Weather, Preparedness, Groundwater Week, Rumor control, WIC, Elder Abuse signs
 - Posts: 30
 - Coffee Talks: 8 scheduled, 1 cancelled due to snow, 33 attendees at 6 sites, due to no attendance in Montour, we will be starting in Chelsea at the library
4. *Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health*
 - Maternal Health: No new news
 - Nest: March topic was Healthy Meals and Snacks
 - SKIP: Meeting March 27, discussed future events (Movies, Fishing Day, Supper with Superheroes). There were 5 Facebook posts.

- NEI3A/COA: No new news.
5. *Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health*
 - Lori and Shannon attended the HHS System Alignment Update, will share the recording when available.
 6. *Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health*
 - PHEP: Tammy attended the "This is a Test: POD Game Train the Trainer" training in Polk County. Lori and Shannon attended PHERP meeting.
 7. *Assure and effective system that enables access to the individual services and care need to be health*
 - Foot Clinics and Blood Pressure Clinics continue
 - Home Health: 59% of referrals were admitted
 8. *Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce*
 - Lori and Shannon worked on the FY 26 Budget multiple times, the final was submitted the end of March.
 9. *Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement*
 - QAPI: No new news
 - Survey comments from February: I am very grateful for the encouragement along with the instruction. Thank you!
A very good department of Tama County. I feel we recovered very well. Without their help I would have taken longer to recover.
Tama County is one of the best services the county offers. So glad I was able to receive them.
 10. *Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health*
 - VFC Site Visit was completed March 25th, we will need to be printing temperature logs from the digital data trackers every two weeks, currently we were utilizing written temperature checks done twice daily, we will add the data logs to this process every two weeks.
 - Tammy Schuett last day will be April 21st. She will be joining Mercy Care Tama. Some programs may have to be on hold until a new hire is selected.
 - Mel Blocker's last day was March 28, she took a position with Birkwood.

Lori Johnson said that there was an All Staff Meeting held on April 17th.

A CNA that has been on medical leave is returning to work today.

The Stop the Bleed trainings have begun. Tammy Schuett is the only one in our Agency trained to do these trainings and she has agreed to stay on PRN to do these trainings. We receive grant funds to do these trainings.

There are several movie nights coming up starting April 30th.

Waiver: March: Two patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 0 Maternal Health Home visits in March.

Financial Report:

Admissions remained the same for the month of March. Skilled Nurse visits decreased for March. Health Aide visits decreased and hours increased for the month of March. Our revenue increased for the month of March.

Lori has made the personnel changes in Iowa Grants to reflect Interim changes in position.

Lori, Claire, Beth, and Jolynn took IDSS training with Nicki Kalas, IHHS.

Casey Schmidt moved to approve the Financial Report. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Mark Doland introduced Libby Reekers to the Board. Libby has been a Mental Health Advocate for 15 years. Her role is to advocate for mental health needs. Her role will be changing as the State has reorganized Mental Health, but she is not sure what that means yet. Mark said that Tama County has a huge need for mental health services. He feels that Public Health and Mental Health go hand in hand. The County is resource poor for mental health. Libby's position is funded through the State, meaning the County gets reimbursed for her. Mark was wondering if Libby's position could be moved under Public Health and housed here.

Shelby Chekal shared that she is a Social Worker in Benton County with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. She is trained to help in crisis situations. She was previously contracted to Benton County but has been employed with them since the new year. She responds with the Sheriff's Office to all 911 mental health calls. She does care coordination and helps with de-escalating situations. She also works with the County Attorneys office and testifies at court. She says she is also there for law enforcement mental support too. She says that the Officers need to believe that this is a good program to work together as partners.

Libby Reekers said that she currently works 20-25 hours per week which is funded by the State. With the leftover hours she could explore doing case management or crisis counseling. Micki Ferris asked if this would be a Public Health position or just housed here. Mark Doland said it would be an added position. He said that there is \$150,000 of Opioid dollars that can go to the position. There is a \$15,000 a year settlement from the drug companies. Iowa has the third lowest fatalities related to opioids. We can be proactive before there is a crisis. You either pay in catastrophe or in prevention.

Sally Custer asked what our next step should be. Casey Schmidt said that he didn't want to rely on the State for anything. Mark Doland said that each county has different needs.

Lori Johnson asked when this would be effective. Mark Doland said by July 1st.

Sherry Parks asked why would she be housed with Public Health when it seems like her position would work more with the Sheriff's Department? Mark Doland said he was open to ideas. He knows that Public Health does well with retaining grants.

Casey Schmidt said he was not opposed to having the position under the Sheriff's Department. Mark said he would be open to having the position under the Sheriff's Department. Casey said that hearing about the model that Benton County has it makes sense for the position to be under the Sheriff's Department, since this position would need access to their police records and software. Casey said that he would be in contact with Benton County to discuss this.

B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Great Treasure Hunt Claim. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Sally Custer moved to Approve & Authorize Assistant Director/Interim CEO/Executive Director to complete and sign Iowa Medicaid Provider Agreement and Enrollment Forms. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Micki Ferris moved to Approve the Environmental Health Summary of Activities for 1/1/25-3/31/25. Sherri Vesley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize Assistant Director/CFO to sign Concurrence Letter with Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Application. Sherri Vesley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Sally Custer moved to Approve & Authorize Interim CEO/Executive Director to sign Person Centered Funding Provider Application Form and Agreement for FY 26 with Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging. Casey Schmidt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Micki Ferris moved to Approve removing Lee Anna Kriegel as Interim Clinical Manager and appointing her Clinical Manager. Casey Schmidt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Micki Ferris moved to Approve the Finance Committee Recommendations. This includes a 2% Cost of Living wage increase for all staff effective 07/01/25 and interim pay increases of \$2.26/hr effective 04/17/25 for both the Interim CEO/Executive Director and Interim Assistant Director/CFO until a new Director starts. Sherri Vesely seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Micki Ferris moved to Approve having Tammy Schuett and Melanie Blocker work as PRN employees. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Casey Schmidt moved to appoint a Hiring Committee for the CEO/Executive Director position. Discussion was held. Sherry Parks and Sally Custer both agreed to be on the Hiring Committee. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Discussion was held about Chris filling in as the Interim Zoning Administrator. He said that he was asked by the Board of Supervisors to fill in. Applications were closed on May 9th, and he will be done filling in as Interim by July 1st.

Correspondence: The Board of Health acknowledges that they have received the Correspondence from IHHS via Iowa Grants regarding Applicable Law for Contracts and President Trumps Executive Orders.

Public Comment: The Dysart Clinic will be closing May 22nd. The rumor is that there is a new provider coming in.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at Noon, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant

The full Zoom recording is available. It is available by request.